

*Elementary Text-Book of Entomology.* By W. F. KIRBY.  
London: Sonnenschein and Co., 1885.

THE title of this book is somewhat misleading, which was probably not the author's fault, as his object was to furnish "a portable Hand-book, freely illustrated, in which a number of the most typical and remarkable insects of all parts of the world should be popularly described and figured." To this end not less than eighty-seven plates of woodcuts containing 650 figures, of which more than half are devoted to Lepidoptera, are given. Woodcuts are not well adapted for portraying insects; but, on the whole, the species are fairly recognizable, a few, like *Batocera rubus*, *Truxalis nasuta*, *Calepteryx virgo*, and two or three others, excepted. Most of the insects figured are common in collections; and this is an advantage as enabling the beginner to name his species, always a great desideratum.

Mr. Kirby has given short descriptions of most of the families, and often of some of the species, as well as of their habits and economy; considering the necessarily limited character of the work, this has been exceedingly well done.

As to the relationship of the Collembola and Thysanura, we should prefer to follow Sir J. Lubbock, who has made them a special study, and regard them not as "true insects" rather than as Neuroptera. The Mallophaga also would be better placed with the Hemiptera, as Gerstäcker, Claus, and others have placed them. But may we ask why he has invariably commenced the specific names with a capital?

It is, we think, very unfortunate that Mr. Kirby should have reverted to the old name of Locustidæ for the Gryllidæ, and that he should have adopted *Acheta* for the classical *Gryllus*. The former name, a section of the genus *Gryllus* of Linnæus (by whom it was first used, and not by Fabricius), should, by the law of priority, revert to the mole-cricket (*Gryllotalpa*). It is perhaps quite as unfortunate that he, in following the vicious practice of the Munich Catalogue, which pays no attention to names previously used, provided that they are not used for Coleoptera, should have adopted the generic name of the kangaroo for the harlequin beetle that forms his frontispiece.

Mr. Kirby's volume will be very useful to those who only require a general idea of insect-forms; to the traveller, who cannot carry many books with him, it will give a clue to the systematic position of almost any insect he may acquire.

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

April 29, 1885.—Prof. T. G. Bonney, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,  
President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

"On the Structure of the Ambulacra of some Fossil Genera and Species of Regular Echinoidea." By Prof. P. Martin Duncan, M.B. (Lond.), F.R.S., V.P. Linn. Soc., F.G.S.

After noticing the general knowledge which exists about the